

# **INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER**

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### **Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago**

## **Bimonthly Newsletter**

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Our Bimonthly Newsletter includes websites from the Electronic Documentation Service, a mechanism for identifying and delivering authoritative but often hard-to-locate and soon-out-of-print reports by a number of different government agencies and private think tanks. **Some links may need to be copied and pasted.**

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### **DEMOCRACY**

**A FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUDGET FOR THE FUTURE: FIXING THE CRISIS IN DIPLOMATIC READINESS.** American Academy of Diplomacy. October 2008.

[http://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/publications/FAB\\_report\\_2008.pdf](http://www.academyofdiplomacy.org/publications/FAB_report_2008.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report recommends that the State Department hire 4,735 more Foreign Service staffers and other key personnel between fiscal 2010 and 2014. New hires would be involved in core diplomatic efforts such as operating embassies and working with businesses and nongovernmental organizations abroad; engage in public diplomacy; administer economic assistance programs like those at USAID; and manage reconstruction and stabilization projects similar to ones in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those staffers would fill a 2008 shortfall of 2,400 employees, the authors say, and help State expand its activities while allowing more employees to receive much-needed training.

**A REPORT ON THE 2008 PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS ADS: ADS MORE NEGATIVE THAN PREVIOUS YEARS.**

Brookings Institution. September 4, 2008

[http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/0630\\_campaignads\\_west.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/papers/2008/0630_campaignads_west.aspx) [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Few aspects of campaigns attract as much discussion as television advertisements. Political spots generally represent the largest single expenditure by candidates and often generate considerable news coverage. According to the report, many observers are not happy with the quality of information presented in ads or the tone of political discourse. Critics worry that the emergence of 30-second commercials undermines substantive discourse and leads to campaigns that are overly negative. Both raise potential problems for democratic elections.

**A REPORT ON THE MEDIA AND THE IMMIGRATION DEBATE: DEMOCRACY IN THE AGE OF NEW MEDIA.** Brookings Institute. Web posted September 29, 2008

[http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/0925\\_immigration\\_dionne/0925\\_immigration\\_dionne.pdf](http://www.brookings.edu/~media/Files/rc/reports/2008/0925_immigration_dionne/0925_immigration_dionne.pdf) [PDF format, 97 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The study argues that the U.S. media have hindered effective policy making on immigration for decades, and their impact has been increasing in recent years as a result of an ongoing evolution in the media industry. Deeply ingrained practices in American journalism have produced a narrative that conditions the public to associate immigration with illegality, crisis, controversy, and government failure. The objective is to understand how the

media conditioned public opinion and the policy landscape, and the results show that the media, both traditional journalism and new forms of expression, need to be considered among the factors that contribute to polarization and distrust.

**AMERICAN PUBLIC HAS MUCH TO LEARN ABOUT PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES' ISSUE POSITIONS.** National Annenberg Election Survey. Kate Kenski and Kathleen Hall Jamieson. Web posted October 2, 2008  
<http://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/Downloads/Releases/NAES%202008/Political%20Knowledge%20final.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material] Many Americans are unable to identify where the major party candidates' stand on various issues ranging from health care to abortion to free trade, according to recent data collected by the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey. Only a little over a quarter (28 percent) of adults were able to identify Senator John McCain as the presidential candidate more likely to support free trade agreements like NAFTA.

**AN AGREEMENT REGARDING THE TEMPORARY U.S. PRESENCE IN IRAQ AND ITS ACTIVITIES AND WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ, BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE IRAQI GOVERNMENT.** American Friends Service Committee. Web posted October 22, 2008  
<http://www.afsc.org/ht/a/GetDocumentAction/i/69064> [PDF format, 17 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), an international peace and social justice organization, has posted the first public English translation of the latest status of forces agreement between the U.S and Iraqi administrations on its web site. If ratified in Iraq, the agreement would permit U.S. troops to remain the country once the United Nations mandate ends this year and may begin the process of establishing permanent U.S. military bases there. The Arabic-language version of this document appeared in a major daily newspaper, Al-Sabah Al-Jadeed.

**BOLIVIA: A PROFOUND BREAKDOWN OF COMMUNICATION WITH LATIN AMERICA.** Council on Hemispheric Affairs. Web posted September 16, 2008  
<http://www.coha.org/2008/09/bolivia-a-profound-breakdown-of-communication-with-latin-america/> [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

With UNASUR having just met in Santiago, Chile to discuss the escalating crisis in Bolivia, the stage is set for a huge surge of autonomy for Latin America, owing to a series of newly auto-generated, self-managed and extensive regional initiatives. It is a shift from a decades-long hegemonic status-quo.

**CHANGING COURSE: A NEW DIRECTION FOR U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE MUSLIM WORLD.** U.S.-Muslim Engagement Project. September 23, 2008  
[http://www.usmuslimengagement.org/storage/usme/documents/Changing\\_Course\\_-\\_A\\_New\\_Direction\\_for\\_US\\_Relations\\_with\\_the\\_Muslim\\_World.pdf](http://www.usmuslimengagement.org/storage/usme/documents/Changing_Course_-_A_New_Direction_for_US_Relations_with_the_Muslim_World.pdf) [PDF format, 170 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Creating partnerships for peace with Muslim countries and communities is one of the greatest challenges and opportunities facing the United States today. Currently, conflict, misunderstanding, and distrust plague U.S. relations with Muslims in many countries, imperiling security for all. However, despite these tensions, the vast majority of Americans and Muslims around the world want peace, amicable relations, good governance, prosperity, and improving relations with key Muslim countries and communities.

**CHAVEZ WRECKS VENEZUELA, DEMOCRACY.** American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research. Roger F. Noriega. Web posted September 25, 2008  
[http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.28682/pub\\_detail.asp](http://www.aei.org/publications/filter.all,pubID.28682/pub_detail.asp) [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

According to Roger Noriega, the author, despite all appearances, Venezuelan president Hugo Chávez is not popular

in his own country. While he is busy destroying the domestic economy, spending billions on vanity projects in foreign countries as the Venezuelan infrastructure crumbles, and supporting Colombian terrorists, his people are taking note. The November regional elections are a chance for the people to tell their president that they have had enough.

**IS AMERICA READY TO VOTE?** Brennan Center for Justice, New York University School of Law. October 16, 2008  
[http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/is\\_america\\_ready\\_to\\_vote](http://www.brennancenter.org/content/resource/is_america_ready_to_vote) [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

With millions of Americans expected to confront an array of voting technologies on Nov. 4, election experts from the Brennan Center for Justice gives 50-state report card that grades every state on its preparedness to respond to Election Day voting system problems like broken machines, software malfunctions, or long lines that result from voting equipment breakdowns or misallocation of machines.

**MEDIA AND DEMOCRACY IN AMERICA TODAY: A REFORM PLAN FOR A NEW ADMINISTRATION.** Common Cause Education Fund. Web posted August 29, 2008

<http://www.commoncause.org/atf/cf/%7Bfb3c17e2-cdd1-4df6-92be-bd4429893665%7D/MEDIAPLAN082108.PDF>

[PDF format, 32 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report lays out a plan of action for the next President and Congress to take to ensure the media performs its appropriate role in our democracy. Congress is currently considering a "Resolution of Disapproval" of the Federal Communication Commission's new media ownership rules. The report calls for the passage of House Joint Resolution 79, which would overturn the FCC's new rules and halt further media consolidation.

**MEXICO'S OTHER BORDER: ISSUES AFFECTING MEXICO'S DIVIDING LINE WITH GUATEMALA.** Council on Hemispheric Affairs. Web posted September 15, 2008

<http://www.coha.org/2008/09/mexicos-other-border-issues-affecting-mexico%E2%80%99s-dividing-line-with-guatemala/> [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

In 2003, the number of documented Guatemalans in Mexico had fallen to 2,601. According to a 2000 census, 55 percent of those Guatemalans living in Mexico were to be found in Chiapas. But the indifferent attitude towards the indigenous population along the border has led to an increase in violence and abuse by the Mexican security forces.

**REPORT ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM 2008.** U.S. Department of State. Web posted on September 23, 2008

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2008/index.htm> [HTML format, various paging]

The annual report highlights both the admirable protections and the unjust violations of religious freedom. The focus is on government policies and actions, but societal attitudes and abuses are highlighted. There are still too many governments that do not allow for the full enjoyment of the most basic human right. North Korea remains among the world's most egregious violators of religious freedom. The cult of personality surrounding the ruling family remains an important ideological underpinning of the regime, at times resembling tenets of a state religion.

**VOTING IN 2008: A CLOSE LOOK AT VOTING PREPAREDNESS IN 10 SWING STATES.** [Common Cause/Century Foundation]. Web posted September 20, 2008

<http://www.commoncause.org/atf/cf/%7Bfb3c17e2-cdd1-4df6-92be-bd4429893665%7D/VOTINGIN2008REPORT.PDF> [PDF format, 108 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

As election officials brace for record-breaking voter turnout on Election Day, a close examination of voting preparedness in 10 swing states shows that significant problems in the basic functions of the American election administration system persist. The report examines what progress has been made since 2006 in seven battleground states: Florida, Georgia, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. In addition, Colorado, New Mexico and Virginia, whose new status as likely swing states, and the potential for election administration difficulties, have also been included.

## **ECONOMIC PROSPERITY**

**A GUIDE TO THE HOUSING CRISIS: TEN QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.** Century Foundation. Bernard Wasow. Web posted October 4, 2008

[http://www.tcf.org/publications/economicsinequality/housing\\_brief.pdf](http://www.tcf.org/publications/economicsinequality/housing_brief.pdf) [PDF format, 6 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

As Congress tries to work out a financial rescue plan, many people are still trying to understand how the financial institutions got into so much trouble in the first place, and why the government needs to take action to bail them out. In an issue brief Bernard Wasow answers ten crucial questions about the housing crisis. The questions include why did lenders make so many bad loans for mortgages and why are so many different banks and brokerages all over the world in hot water.

**ADVANCE SUMMARY: U.S. CRUDE OIL, NATURAL GAS, AND NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS RESERVES 2007 ANNUAL REPORT.** Energy Information Administration, U.S. Department of Energy. October 2008

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil\\_gas/natural\\_gas/data\\_publications/advanced\\_summary/current/adsum.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/pub/oil_gas/natural_gas/data_publications/advanced_summary/current/adsum.pdf)

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Record-high additions to U.S. dry natural gas proved reserves in 2007 totaled 46.1 trillion cubic feet (Tcf), more than double the 19.5 Tcf of dry natural gas actually produced in the United States during the year, according to the report. As a result, total proved reserves of dry natural gas in the U.S. at the end of 2007 rose to 237.7 Tcf, 13 percent above the year-end 2006 level and the highest level in the 31 years EIA has published annual reserves data. For the first time in four years, U.S. proved oil reserves increased during 2007, as proved reserve additions of 2.0 billion barrels exceeded production of 1.7 billion barrels. Year-end proved reserves in 2007 stood at 21.3 billion barrels, nearly two percent higher than at the end of 2006.

**ANXIETY OVER ENERGY, JOBS, AND WEALTH SHAKES AMERICA'S GLOBAL ECONOMIC CONFIDENCE.** Chicago Council on Global Affairs. Web posted October 15, 2008

[http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/POS\\_Topline%20Reports/POS%202008/2008%20Public%20Opinion\\_Economic.pdf](http://www.thechicagocouncil.org/UserFiles/File/POS_Topline%20Reports/POS%202008/2008%20Public%20Opinion_Economic.pdf)

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report shows that economic anxiety is causing Americans to shift their foreign policy views and priorities. Energy has emerged as a major source of concern, along with jobs and an unfair distribution of wealth. These concerns are negatively impacting views of globalization, immigration, NAFTA, and the U.S. economic future. The American public's unease is evident in the strong majority (64%) that believes that the distribution of income and wealth in the U.S. has become less fair. Eighty-two percent of those who believe this indicate that globalization and international trade are "very" or "somewhat" important to their assessment.

**BANK SURVEY SHOWS TIGHTENING LENDING STANDARDS.** Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Web posted September 2, 2008

[http://www.frbatlanta.org/invoke.cfm?objectid=E688C172-5056-9F12-12342630347D617A&method=display\\_body](http://www.frbatlanta.org/invoke.cfm?objectid=E688C172-5056-9F12-12342630347D617A&method=display_body)

[HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The credit crunch that has constricted the economy in 2008 continues, according to the survey. The survey, which covers 52 U.S. banks with combined assets of \$6.1 trillion and 21 foreign financial institutions doing business in the United States, finds increasing caution in banks' approaches to making loans. For example, about three-quarters of U.S. banks said they became stricter on prime mortgage loans, which is an increase from 60 percent who cited stricter standards in the April survey.

**BEST-PERFORMING CITIES 2008: WHERE AMERICA'S JOBS ARE CREATED AND SUSTAINED.** Milken Institute. Ross DeVol et al. September 2008

<http://www.milkeninstitute.org/pdf/bpc2008.pdf> [PDF format, 62 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Provo, Utah, with its high-tech status, is placed on the top and is joined by other growing technology-based and

global trade centers in Utah, Texas, Washington, Alabama and the Carolinas. The rebounding technology sector boosted several newcomers to the top 10 in the annual ranking of where America's jobs are being created and sustained, and metros that are highly dependent on export-intensive industries also showed success. Several past leading cities fell due to the national decline in housing and construction markets, and metros that remain concentrated in manufacturing continue lag in the rankings.

**CAPITALIZING ON VOLUNTEERS' SKILLS: VOLUNTEERING BY OCCUPATION IN AMERICA.** Corporation for National and Community Service. Web posted September 9, 2008

[http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/08\\_0908\\_rpd\\_volunteer\\_occupation.pdf](http://www.nationalservice.gov/pdf/08_0908_rpd_volunteer_occupation.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The study places strong emphasis on pro bono volunteering as a strategic and cost-effective way to tap into the skills of volunteers and reinvent the way they serve with nonprofits. It looks at the prevalence of volunteering among people in various occupations and shows how often they use their occupational skills when they volunteer. The study is designed to help broaden and deepen public and private sector partnerships, and allow nonprofits to take full advantage of the skills their volunteers have to offer.

**DIGITAL QUALITY OF LIFE: UNDERSTANDING THE PERSONAL AND SOCIAL BENEFIT OF THE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION.** Information Technology and Innovation Foundation. Robert D. Atkinson and Daniel D. Castro. Web posted October 11, 2008

<http://www.itif.org/files/DQOL.pdf> [PDF format, 185 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

In the new global economy information technology (IT) is the major driver of both economic growth and improved quality of life. The report documents how IT, since the mid-1990s, has been the principal driver of increased economic growth not only in the United States but also in many other nations. Information technology is also at the core of dramatic improvements in the quality of life for individuals around the world. The report shows how IT is the key enabler of many of today's key innovations and improvements in our lives and society, from better education and health care, to a cleaner and more energy-efficient environment, to safer and more secure communities and nations.

**ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF IMMIGRATION: A SURVEY.** Harvard Business School. Sari Pekkala Kerr and William R. Kerr. Web posted September 2, 2008

<http://www.hbs.edu/research/pdf/09-013.pdf> [PDF format, 37 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The paper surveys recent empirical studies on the economic impacts of immigration. Particular emphasis is given to the experiences of Northern Europe and Scandinavia. The survey first examines the magnitude of immigration as an economic phenomenon in various host countries. The second part deals with the assimilation of immigrant workers in host-country labor markets and the use of social benefits by immigrants. The survey then considers the effect of immigration on the labor market outcomes of natives. The paper concludes with studies of immigration's impact for the public sector of host countries.

**ENERGY, ELECTRICITY AND NUCLEAR POWER ESTIMATES FOR THE PERIOD UP TO 2030.** International Atomic Energy Agency. Web posted September 15, 2008

[http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/RDS1-28\\_web.pdf](http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTCD/publications/PDF/RDS1-28_web.pdf) [PDF format, 56 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report provides nuclear power generation projections to 2030. It reports that nuclear share of global electricity generation dropped another percentage point in 2007 to 14%. This compares to the nearly steady share of 16% to 17% that nuclear power maintained for almost two decades, from 1986 through 2005. In this current edition, it expects global nuclear power capacity in 2030 to range from a low case scenario of 473 GW(e), some 27% higher than today's 372 GW(e), to a high case scenario of 748 GW(e), i.e., double today's capacity.

**ENVIRONMENT, ENERGY, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.** RAND Corporation. Web posted October 10, 2008

[http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical\\_reports/2008/RAND\\_TR580.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/technical_reports/2008/RAND_TR580.pdf) [PDF format, 98 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Alternative sources of fossil fuels such as oil sands and coal-to-liquids have significant economic promise, but the environmental consequences must also be considered, according to the study. It provides a review of coal-to-liquids and Canadian oil sands technologies, considers possible impacts on fuel costs from future limitations on carbon dioxide emissions, and compares costs of the alternative fossil fuels to conventional petroleum fuels in 2025. Development of oil sands can also cause large-scale disturbances of land and habitat.

**FDI SPILLOVERS AND THEIR INTERRELATIONSHIPS WITH TRADE.** Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. Molly Leshner and Sebastien Miroudot. October 7, 2008  
<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/63/42/41457019.pdf> [PDF format, 40 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Foreign direct investment (FDI) represents an increasingly important dimension of international economic integration with global FDI flows growing faster than output over the past two decades.

**FIRST ANNUAL REPORT ON THE LATIN AMERICA SMALL BUSINESS LENDING INITIATIVE.** U.S. Treasury Department. Web posted September 8, 2008  
[http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/reports/latam\\_smallbusiness\\_lending\\_annualrpt\\_082808.pdf](http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/reports/latam_smallbusiness_lending_annualrpt_082808.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages]

The report summarizes the first year of implementation of the Latin America Small Business Lending Initiative, launched by U.S. Treasury Secretary Paulson in June 2007, to expand and improve the access of small businesses in Latin America and the Caribbean to commercial financing. The effort is intended to accelerate the job creation and poverty-reduction that small businesses provide. Expanding small business ownership helps create more sustainable, stable economies with broader economic opportunities.

**GLOBAL BEEF TRADE: EFFECTS OF ANIMAL HEALTH, SANITARY, FOOD SAFETY, AND OTHER MEASURES ON U.S.**

**BEEF EXPORTS.** U.S. International Trade Commission. John Giamalva et al. Web posted October 8, 2008

<http://hotdocs.usitc.gov/docs/pubs/332/pub4033.pdf> [PDF format, 279 pages]

U.S. beef processors and beef cattle ranchers lose billions of dollars in export opportunities each year because of animal health and food safety measures in other countries that are inconsistent with international standards and vary by country, according to the study. Animal health and food safety regulations in Japan and Korea accounted for most of the export losses over the period. The study provides an overview of the U.S. and global beef markets and information on animal health and food safety measures facing U.S. and other major beef exporters in major destination markets.

**GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS REPORT 2008-2009.** World Economic Forum. Michael E. Porter and Klaus Schwab. Web posted October 9, 2008

<http://www.weforum.org/documents/gcr0809/index.html> [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The United States tops the overall ranking in report. Switzerland is in second position followed by Denmark, Sweden and Singapore. European economies continue to prevail in the top 10 with Finland, Germany and the Netherlands following suit. A number of countries in the Middle East and North Africa region are in the upper half of the rankings, led by Israel, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Tunisia, with particular improvements noted in the Gulf States since last year. In sub-Saharan Africa, South Africa, Botswana and Mauritius feature in the top half of the rankings, with several countries from the region measurably improving their competitiveness.

**HOW TO SUCCESSFULLY STIMULATE THE ECONOMY.** Heritage Foundation. William W. Beach. October 24, 2008

[http://www.heritage.org/Research/Economy/upload/wm\\_2113.pdf](http://www.heritage.org/Research/Economy/upload/wm_2113.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

When the economy is struggling, Congress has a tendency to invoke the same tried and failed policies of the past. Typically, these policies promise hundreds of billions of dollars in government spending while doing little to actually revitalize economic activity. According to Beach, the test for distinguishing good stimulus ideas from bad ones should be this: Is the proposal likely to raise the economy to a sustained, higher level of growth?



**INFLATION TARGETING IN BRAZIL.** Levy Economics Institute, Bard College. Philip Arestis et al. Web posted October 2, 2008

[http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp\\_544.pdf](http://www.levy.org/pubs/wp_544.pdf) [PDF format, 30 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The paper is to examine inflation targeting (IT) in emerging countries by concentrating essentially on the case of Brazil. The IT monetary policy regime has been adopted by a significant number of countries. While the focus of the paper is on Brazil, which began inflation targeting in 1999, it also examines the experience of other countries, both for comparative purposes and for evidence of the extent of this “new” economic policy’s success.

**INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE FINANCIAL COOPERATION.** Brookings Institution. Ralph C. Bryant. October 2, 2008

[http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/1002\\_financial\\_crisis\\_bryant.aspx](http://www.brookings.edu/opinions/2008/1002_financial_crisis_bryant.aspx) [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The financial meltdown is now worldwide. Financial institutions have failed or are under severe pressure not only in the United States but in the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Italy, Ireland, Iceland, Russia, China, India, and other nations. The turmoil began with falling prices for housing and for securities and derivatives backed by mortgages. But it is increasingly unanchored from those original causes. Herd behavior and self-fulfilling expectations are now threatening even healthy, adequately capitalized institutions.

**INTERNATIONAL LABOR MIGRATION IN A GLOBALIZING ECONOMY.** Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Robert E. B. Lucas. Web posted October 24, 2008

[http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/international\\_migration\\_globalizing\\_economy.pdf](http://www.carnegieendowment.org/files/international_migration_globalizing_economy.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

As globalization spread dramatically over the last twenty years, migration expanded less rapidly than either trade or foreign investment. Nonetheless, the migration remains contentious, often being blamed for income stagnation, even as some economists praise it as the fastest route to raising world incomes. Money sent by migrants to their home countries can promote rapid growth in developing regions, and the withdrawal of laborers can induce higher wages or less underemployment for those left behind. However, the flow of money can dry up quickly and unexpectedly, as has happened recently in Mexico.

**KEY WORLD ENERGY STATISTICS 2008.** International Energy Agency. October 2008

[http://www.iea.org/textbase/nppdf/free/2008/key\\_stats\\_2008.pdf](http://www.iea.org/textbase/nppdf/free/2008/key_stats_2008.pdf) [PDF format, 82 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The study encompasses oil, natural gas, coal, electricity and renewable energy sources. It includes Canadian production of coal, the electricity consumption in Thailand, the price of diesel oil in South Africa and thousands of other useful energy facts.

**MEASURING LABOUR MARKETS IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES: 2008 REPORT.** Fraser Institute. Keith Godin et al. Web posted August 31, 2008

[http://www.fraserinstitute.org/commerce.web/product\\_files/MeasuringLabourMarketsCanadaUS2008.pdf](http://www.fraserinstitute.org/commerce.web/product_files/MeasuringLabourMarketsCanadaUS2008.pdf) [PDF format, 70 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The research paper assesses the performance of labor markets and explains why results differ among jurisdictions. The paper provides a series of specific evaluations as well as a comprehensive measure of labor market performance. Indicators of labor performance such as job creation, unemployment, and productivity are used to assess Canadian provincial and US state labor market performance. It also examines those characteristics and regulations of the labor market that have been shown to affect its performance.

**NETWORKED FAMILIES: PARENTS AND SPOUSES ARE USING THE INTERNET AND CELL PHONES TO CREATE A “NEW CONNECTEDNESS” THAT BUILDS ON REMOTE CONNECTIONS AND SHARED INTERNET EXPERIENCES.** Pew Internet & American Life Project. Tracey L. M. Kennedy et al. October 19, 2008

[http://pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP\\_Networked\\_Family.pdf](http://pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Networked_Family.pdf) [PDF format, 44 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

American families are using a wide range of communication media to keep in contact with each other. Married couples with minor children stand out because they have higher rates of internet and cell phone usage, computer ownership and broadband adoption than other household configuration. For today's married-with-children households, ownership of multiple gadgets and communication tools is a standard feature of life. For example, 89% of married-with-children households own multiple cell phones, and nearly half (47%) own three or more mobile devices. Children in these households are somewhat less likely to own a cell phone than they are to go online: 57% of these children (aged 7-17) have their own cell phone.

#### **NEW FINANCING TRENDS IN LATIN AMERICA: AN OVERVIEW OF SELECTED ISSUES AND POLICY CHALLENGES.**

Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. Camilo E. Tovar and Myriam Quispe-Agnoli. Web posted September 24, 2008

[http://www.frbatlanta.org/filelegacydocs/er08no3\\_tovar.pdf](http://www.frbatlanta.org/filelegacydocs/er08no3_tovar.pdf) [PDF format, 16 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

During the past fifteen years, financial markets in Latin America have experienced a major transformation. This process and its effects on the nature of risks and policy challenges in Latin America were the focus of a May 2007 conference in Mexico City sponsored by the Representative Office for the Americas of the Bank for International Settlements and the Americas Center of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. This article summarizes the papers presented at the conference as well as the discussions among participants from central banks, finance ministries, multilateral institutions, academia, and the private sector.

**OIL'S TROUBLE SPOTS.** Council on Foreign Relations. Toni Johnson. Web posted August 29, 2008

[http://www.cfr.org/publication/17068/oils\\_trouble\\_spots.html?breadcrumb=%2F](http://www.cfr.org/publication/17068/oils_trouble_spots.html?breadcrumb=%2F) [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Rising dependence on oil and soaring gasoline costs have the potential for oil supply disruptions. Hence, the stability of energy-rich regions poses major concerns. Certain areas are particularly vulnerable, one of which is the Strait of Hormuz in the Persian Gulf, through which tankers carry 20 percent of the world's oil. Analysts say the Niger Delta, Iraq, and Venezuela remain vulnerable as well. With global supplies of oil already tight, potential supply disruptions could lead to significant increases in already volatile oil prices.

**OPEC OIL EXPORT REVENUES.** Energy Information Administration. Web posted October 8, 2008

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC\\_Revenues/Factsheet.html](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/Factsheet.html) [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Based on projections from the Short Term Energy Outlook (STEO), members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) could earn \$1,084 billion of net oil export revenues in 2008, and \$1,084 billion in 2009. Through September, OPEC has earned an estimated \$821 billion in net oil export earnings in 2008. Last year, OPEC earned \$671 billion in net oil export revenues, a 10 percent increase from 2006. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$194 billion, representing 29 percent of total OPEC revenues.

**OPEC REVENUES FACT SHEET.** Energy Information Administration. September 2008

[http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC\\_Revenues/pdf.pdf](http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/OPEC_Revenues/pdf.pdf) [PDF format, 3 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

EIA estimates that members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) earned \$671 billion in net oil export revenues in 2007, a 10 percent increase from 2006. Saudi Arabia earned the largest share of these earnings, \$194 billion, representing 29 percent of total OPEC revenues. On a per-capita basis, OPEC net oil export earning reached \$1,137, a 8 percent increase from 2006. Through August, OPEC had earned an estimated \$740 billion in net oil export earnings in 2008.

#### **POSSIBLE FEDERAL REVENUES ESTIMATES FROM OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN AREAS CURRENTLY OFF-LIMITS.**

Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Web posted September 18, 2008

<http://republicans.resourcescommittee.house.gov/pdf/CRS%20-%20ANWR%20and%20OCS%20REVENUE%20Report.pdf> [PDF format, 5 pages]



According to the report analysis, the untapped American energy resources in currently off-limit OCS areas represent a potential \$801.5 billion in federal royalty and corporate income tax revenue. With the Congressional ban set to expire on September 30, the Democratic Leadership has introduced a bill to permanently prohibit production of almost all of these resources. CRS estimates that OCS oil and gas production in areas currently off limits to energy production could produce \$518.5 billion in royalty revenues and an estimated \$283 billion in corporate income tax revenues, a total of \$801.5 billion.

**THE BUDGET AND ECONOMIC OUTLOOK: AN UPDATE.** Congressional Budget Office. Web posted September 10, 2008

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/97xx/doc9706/09-08-Update.pdf> [PDF format, 92 pages]

According to undated CBO economic forecast, the economy is likely to experience at least several more months of weakness. Whether this period will ultimately be designated a recession or not is still uncertain, but the increase in the unemployment rate and the pace of economic growth are similar to conditions during previous periods of mild recession.

**THE CHALLENGE OF HUNGER 2008.** International Food Policy Research Institute. Klaus Von Grebmer et al. October 14, 2008

<http://www.ifpri.org/pubs/cp/ghi08.pdf> [PDF format, 44 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report comes at a time of dramatic changes in world food markets, with high food prices threatening the food security of millions of vulnerable households. Hunger and malnutrition are back in the headlines. The report incorporates data only until 2006, the most recent available. However, it highlights the countries and regions facing the greatest risk in the current context of high food prices. 33 countries have levels of hunger that are alarming or extremely alarming. The index shows that South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa continue to suffer from high levels of hunger, and whereas South Asia has made rapid progress in combating hunger, Sub-Saharan Africa has made only marginal progress. For hungry and malnourished people in these regions, rising food prices pose serious threats.

**THE FUTURE OF PENSIONS AND HEALTHCARE IN A RAPIDLY AGEING WORLD: SCENARIOS TO 2030.** World Economic Forum. Bernd Jan Sikken et al. September 2008

<http://www.weforum.org/pdf/scenarios/Pensions.pdf> [PDF format, 115 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The world is ageing at an unprecedented rate. It will undermine the financial sustainability of not only traditional pension systems, but also conventional healthcare systems. The report argues that urgent action in many countries around the globe is required to meet these challenges. It indicates that new forms of collaboration between key stakeholders, individuals, financial institutions, healthcare providers, employers and governments, will be critical to finance the ongoing well-being of current and future generations in a sustainable manner.

**THE NEW COMPETITION FOR GLOBAL RESOURCES.** Knowledge@Wharton, University of Pennsylvania. Web posted September 28, 2008

[http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/papers/download/BCGReport\\_Competition\\_for\\_Global\\_Resources.pdf](http://knowledge.wharton.upenn.edu/papers/download/BCGReport_Competition_for_Global_Resources.pdf) [PDF format, 24 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Companies in the U.S. and Western Europe once had unfettered access to the world's resources, such as raw materials, capital and talent. Thanks to increasing demand from India, China, Brazil, Russia and other rapidly developing economies, however, that access is no longer assured. In the report, experts discuss the ways in which this unprecedented "race" for resources is reshaping global business, and how key political and financial trends in emerging economies are likely to affect companies anywhere in the world.

**THE STATE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE 2008.** U.N. Food Agriculture Organization. Web posted October 15, 2008

<ftp://ftp.fao.org/docrep/fao/011/i0100e/i0100e.pdf> [PDF format, 138 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report explores the implications of the recent rapid growth in production of bio-fuels based on agricultural

commodities. The boom in liquid bio-fuels has been largely driven by policies in developed countries in support of climate-change mitigation, energy security and agricultural development. The growing demand for agricultural commodities for the production of bio-fuels is having significant repercussions on agricultural markets, and concerns are mounting over their negative impact on the food security of millions of people across the world.

**UNEVEN PROGRESS: THE EMPLOYMENT PATHWAYS OF SKILLED IMMIGRANTS IN THE UNITED STATES.** Migration Policy Institute. Jeanne Batalova and Michael Fix. Web posted October 25, 2008

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/BrainWasteOct08.pdf> [PDF format, 70 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

More than 1.3 million college-educated immigrants living in the United States are unemployed or working as taxi drivers, dishwashers, security guards or in other unskilled jobs because they are unable to make full use of their academic and professional credentials, according to the report. The report quantifies the scope of the 'brain waste' problem that affects 22 percent of the 6.1 million immigrants with a bachelor's degree or higher who are in the U.S. labor market. It analyzes and offers possible solutions for the credentialing and language-barrier hurdles that deprive the U.S. economy of a rich source of human capital at a time of increasing competition globally for skilled talent.

**WHAT ARE THE DRIVING FORCES OF INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS CYCLES?** National Bureau of Economic Research. Mario J. Crucini et al. October 2008

<http://www.nber.org/papers/w14380.pdf> [PDF format, 41 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report examines the driving forces of G-7 business cycles. It decomposes national business cycles into common and nation-specific components using a dynamic factor model. The report finds a large common factor in oil prices, productivity, and the terms of trade. Productivity is the main driving force, with other drivers isolated to particular nations or sub-periods.

**WILL THE PLUNGE IN GRAIN PRICES MEAN LOWER FOOD PRICES AT THE SUPERMARKET?** Renewable Fuels Association. October 15, 2008

[http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/1945/will\\_the\\_plunge\\_in\\_grain\\_prices\\_mean\\_lower\\_food\\_prices\\_at\\_the\\_supermarket.pdf](http://www.ethanolrfa.org/objects/documents/1945/will_the_plunge_in_grain_prices_mean_lower_food_prices_at_the_supermarket.pdf) [PDF format, 7 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The 2008 corn, wheat, and soybean crops are well on their way to being among the largest ever in the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Crop Production Report, farmers are expected to produce the second-largest corn crop ever, the largest wheat crop in over 10 years, and the fourth-largest soybean crop on record.<sup>1</sup> USDA's most recent report estimated the 2008 corn crop at 12.2 billion bushels with an average yield per acre of 154 bushels. The expectation of increased production, coupled with a decrease in speculative investment in the commodities markets and recent fall in oil prices, has led to sharply lower grain prices in recent weeks. Based on the recent arguments of the grocery industry, meat processors and others, lower grain prices should mean lower retail food prices for consumers. Thus far, however, it seems highly unlikely that reduced grain and oilseed prices alone will lead to lower retail food prices, as there are many complex factors that influence retail food pricing.

**WORLD RESOURCES 2008: ROOTS OF RESILIENCE – GROWING THE WEALTH OF THE POOR.** United Nations Development Programme et al. Web posted October 13, 2008

[http://pdf.wri.org/world\\_resources\\_2008\\_roots\\_of\\_resilience.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/world_resources_2008_roots_of_resilience.pdf) [PDF format, 277 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Expanding nature-based enterprises can increase income for the world's rural poor. This approach, as outlined in the report, can also develop the rural poor's resilience to social and environmental threats such as climate change. Three-quarters of the 2.6 billion people who live on less than \$2 a day are dependent upon local natural resources for their livelihoods. Threats such as climate change and ecosystem degradation are beginning to strain those livelihoods, and it will be necessary to shape development strategies that build resilience against such threats and

ensure stable and prosperous communities. The report argues that properly fostered nature-based enterprises can improve rural livelihoods and, in the process, create resilience to economic, social, and environmental threats.

## **EDUCATION**

**COUNTING ON GRADUATION.** Education Trust. Web posted October 26, 2008

<http://www2.edtrust.org/NR/rdonlyres/6CA84103-BB12-4754-8675-17B18A8582AC/0/CountingonGraduation1008.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Among industrialized nations, the United States is the only country in which today's young people are less likely than their parents to have earned a high school diploma. According to the Trust, the policymakers in many states are setting graduation improvement targets that won't get our young people ready to compete in the knowledge-driven world of the 21st century. Federal law requires states to set benchmarks for improvements in reading and math achievement and for graduating high school students on time. However, the various methods states use to compute graduation rates obscure the reality that too few students are completing high school on time.

**EDUCATION AT A GLANCE 2008: OECD INDICATORS.** Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development. Web posted September 9, 2008

[http://www.oecd.org/document/9/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_39263238\\_41266761\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html#5](http://www.oecd.org/document/9/0,3343,en_2649_39263238_41266761_1_1_1_1,00.html#5) [HTML format, Individual Chapter PDF files]

<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/23/46/41284038.pdf> [PDF format, Whole Document, 525 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Across OECD countries, governments are seeking policies to make education more effective while searching for additional resources to meet the increasing demand for education. The study enables countries to see themselves in the light of other countries' performance. It provides a comparable and up-to-date array of indicators on the performance of education systems and represents the consensus of professional thinking on how to measure the current state of education internationally.

## **ENVIRONMENT**

**CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH: 2008.** U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Web posted October 11, 2008

[http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochnp/ochnpweb.nsf/content/2008\\_highlights.htm/\\$file/OCHP\\_2008\\_Highlights\\_508.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochnp/ochnpweb.nsf/content/2008_highlights.htm/$file/OCHP_2008_Highlights_508.pdf) [PDF format, 32 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The publication outlines national efforts to protect children from environmental risks over the last year. The agency has funded research on how the environment affects children's health, promoted the education of health care providers, published information about how climate change affects children's health, and assembled data to quantify the extent of children's health issues. Issues in the report include childhood asthma, lead poisoning, exposure to the sun, children and chemicals, integrated pest management, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units and research findings.

**ECOSYSTEM SERVICES: A GUIDE FOR DECISION MAKERS.** World Resources Institute. Janet Rananathan et al. Web posted October 7, 2008

[http://pdf.wri.org/ecosystem\\_services\\_guide\\_for\\_decisionmakers.pdf](http://pdf.wri.org/ecosystem_services_guide_for_decisionmakers.pdf) [PDF format, 96 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Development and the environment have traditionally been managed separately, but the report guides decision makers in how this can be reconciled to increase prosperity and protect the planet. The authors contend that development planners often assume that the natural assets that development depends upon will always be there. Conservationists, on the other hand, are often preoccupied with minimizing the negative impacts of development

on nature or putting it off limits to people. The guide uses ecosystem services - the benefits of nature - to make the link between nature and development.

**GREEN RECOVERY: A PROGRAM TO CREATE GOOD JOBS AND START BUILDING A LOW-CARBON ECONOMY.**

Center for American Progress. Web posted September 12, 2008

[http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/09/pdf/green\\_recovery.pdf](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/09/pdf/green_recovery.pdf) [PDF format, 42 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

As America confronts the current energy crisis, the report shows that the U.S. can create two million jobs by investing in clean energy technologies that will strengthen the economy and fight global warming. It finds that investing in clean energy would create four times as many jobs as spending the same amount of money within the oil industry. The program could be paid for with proceeds from auctions of carbon permits under a global warming cap-and-trade program that will drive private investments into clean energy and raise public revenue through carbon permit auctions.

**OIL DRILLING IN ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS: THE ROLE OF THE MEDIA.** Center for Economic and Policy Research. Mark Weisbrot and Nichole Szembrot. September 2008

[http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/media\\_drilling\\_2008\\_09.pdf](http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/media_drilling_2008_09.pdf) [PDF format, 4 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The media has played a significant role in convincing Americans that offshore drilling for oil in the United States could significantly lower the price of gasoline, according to the analysis. Even though the U.S. Department of Energy's Energy Information Agency has stated that the benefits from such drilling would be too small to have any significant effect on oil prices, the media has overwhelmingly conveyed the impression that it could. Media coverage of the issue may have influenced public opinion, with a majority now favoring expanded drilling, as proposed by presidential candidate John McCain.

**STATE OF THE WORLD'S BIRDS.** BirdLife International, National Audubon Society. Web posted September 22, 2008

[http://www.birdlife.org/sowb/downloads/SOWB2008\\_verylowres\\_part1.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/sowb/downloads/SOWB2008_verylowres_part1.pdf) [PDF format, Part 1, 14 pages]

[http://www.birdlife.org/sowb/downloads/SOWB2008\\_verylowres\\_part2.pdf](http://www.birdlife.org/sowb/downloads/SOWB2008_verylowres_part2.pdf) [PDF format, Part 2, 14 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report reveals declines in populations of many of the world's most familiar birds. It highlights avian losses worldwide. A staggering 45% of common European birds are declining, and on the other side of the globe, Australian wading birds have seen population losses of 81% in just quarter of a century. In Latin America, the Yellow Cardinal - once common in Argentina - is now classified as globally Endangered.

**GLOBAL ISSUES**

**NONE**

**HEALTH**

**BOTTLED WATER MUST BE BETTER TESTED, LABELED, AND REGULATED.** Natural Resources Defense Council. Mae Wu. September 10, 2008

[http://docs.nrdc.org/water/wat\\_08091001A.pdf](http://docs.nrdc.org/water/wat_08091001A.pdf) [PDF format, 13 pages]

The bottled water that millions of Americans drink each day is allowed to contain higher levels of a toxic chemical associated with birth defects and cancer than tap water, according to a bottled water expert from the Natural Resources Defense Council, testifying before the Senate. Wu stress that Americans have the right to know what toxic chemicals and other contaminants are in their bottled water. Currently water utilities are required to report annually to customers about the contaminants they have tested for and whether any health standards have been violated. There is no such requirement for bottled water.

**FOOD PRICES AND THE AIDS RESPONSE.** International Food Policy Research Institute. Stuart Gillespie. August 2008

<http://www.ifpri.org/renewal/pdf/RFbrief01.pdf> [PDF format, 2 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

A combination of new and ongoing forces is driving global food prices. Hunger and HIV often coexist and interact. According to the World Food Programme, 22 of 30 “high-risk countries” in need of external food assistance are in sub-Saharan Africa, many of which have serious AIDS epidemics. In southern Africa where AIDS is hyper endemic, high levels of income inequality and population mobility are among the key drivers of the epidemic, factors that are likely to be further affected by food price shocks. Households and communities continue to struggle as multiple shocks and stresses, social, economic, political, environmental, and health-related, threaten their livelihood bases.

**FOOD SAFETY AND IMPORTS: AN ANALYSIS OF FDA FOOD-RELATED IMPORT REFUSAL REPORTS.** Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Jean C. Buzby et al. Web posted September 11, 2008

<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Publications/EIB39/EIB39.pdf> [PDF format, 47 pages]

The study examines U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) data on refusals of food offered for importation into the United States from 1998 to 2004. The study found that import refusals highlight food safety problems that appear to recur in trade and where the FDA has focused its import alerts, examinations, and other monitoring efforts. The data show some food industries and types of violations may be consistent sources of problems both over time and in comparison with previous studies of more limited data. The three food industry groups with the most violations were vegetables (20.6 percent of total violations), fishery and seafood (20.1 percent), and fruits (11.7 percent).

**SENIORS AND DRUG PRICES IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, 2008 EDITION.** Fraser Institute. Web posted August 31, 2008

[http://www.fraserinstitute.org/commerce.web/product\\_files/SeniorsandDrugPrices2008.pdf](http://www.fraserinstitute.org/commerce.web/product_files/SeniorsandDrugPrices2008.pdf) [PDF format, 5 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report covers Canada-US price differences for the prescription drugs that are most important to Canadian seniors, aged 60 and older. On average, Canadian seniors pay 101 percent more than American seniors for identical generic drugs but pay 57 percent less than American seniors for identical brand name drugs. Higher Canadian generic prices are caused by government policies that shield retail pharmacies and generic manufacturers from competitive market forces that would put downward pressure on generic prices.

**TEENS, VIDEO GAMES, AND CIVICS.** Pew Internet & American Life Project and MacArthur Foundation. Amanda Lenhart et al. Web posted September 20, 2008

[http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP\\_Teens\\_Games\\_and\\_Civics\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.pewinternet.org/pdfs/PIP_Teens_Games_and_Civics_Report_FINAL.pdf) [PDF format, 76 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The first national survey finds that virtually all American teens play computer, console, or cell phone games and that the gaming experience is rich and varied, with a significant amount of social interaction and potential for civic engagement. The primary findings in the survey of 1,102 youth ages 12-17 include game playing is universal, with almost all teens playing games and at least half playing games on a given day. It is social, with most teens playing games with others at least some of the time and can incorporate many aspects of civic and political life.

**U.S. POLICY REGARDING PANDEMIC-INFLUENZA VACCINES.** Congressional Budget Office, Congress of the United States. Web posted September 15, 2008

<http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/95xx/doc9573/09-15-PandemicFlu.pdf> [PDF format, 56 pages]

The paper focuses on the U.S. government’s role, in the development of new vaccines and the capacity to manufacture them. It provides information on progress and on the potential cost of achieving vaccine-related goals, the continuing expenditures that are likely to be needed to maintain preparedness, and the experience of other countries in preparing for a possible pandemic. The work is based on a review of the academic literature, on industry data, and on interviews with government and industry experts who are working to improve the response of vaccine producers to a potential influenza pandemic.



**VOICES OF ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.** Alzheimer's Association. Peter Reed et al. Web posted August 27, 2008  
[http://www.alz.org/national/documents/report\\_townhall.pdf](http://www.alz.org/national/documents/report_townhall.pdf) [PDF format, 36 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Hundreds of people living in the early stage of Alzheimer's stated that the stigma associated with the disease is one of their top concerns during town hall meetings that the Alzheimer's Association held across the nation.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT / SECURITY / ILLEGAL DRUGS**

**FOLLOW THE MONEY: WHY THE US IS LOSING THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN.** Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman. Web posted September 26, 2008  
[http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/080919\\_afghanwarcosts.pdf](http://www.csis.org/media/csis/pubs/080919_afghanwarcosts.pdf) [PDF format, 26 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

According to the report, the weakness of the Afghan central government and the fact that the Taliban-HiG-Haqqani and Al Qa'ida have had a near sanctuary in Pakistan have played a critical role in the resurgence of the threat, and creating an insurgency that has made major gains over the last four years. The report provides a detailed summary of the steady growth in Taliban-HiG-Haqqani and Al Qa'ida threat activity and its impact on U.S. casualties.

**HAITI: CONFRONTING THE GANGS OF PORT-AU-PRINCE.** U.S. Institute of Peace. Michael Dziedzic and Robert M. Perito. September 2008  
<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr208.pdf> [PDF format, 16 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The United Nation (U.N.) mission in Haiti's successful campaign against the gangs of Port-au-Prince is an example of effective UN mandate enforcement against irregular armed forces that posed a deadly threat - in this case, to the Haitian government and the peace process. The Haiti mission's action provides a model for other UN missions and for national governments that face a similar challenge from illegally armed groups. The report describes the conduct of military and police operations against the gangs and the overwhelmingly positive attitude of Haitian citizens toward the UN operation and its results.

**LATIN AMERICA: TERRORISM ISSUES.** Congressional Research Service, RS21049, Library of Congress. Mark P. Sullivan. Web posted September 17, 2008  
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/RS21049.pdf> [PDF format, 6 pages]

Since the September 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, U.S. attention to terrorism in Latin America has intensified, with an increase in bilateral and regional cooperation. In April 2008, the State Department highlighted threats in Colombia and the tri-border area of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. Cuba has remained on the State Department's list of state sponsors of terrorism since 1982, which triggers a number of economic sanctions. In May 2008, the Department of State, pursuant to Arms Export Control Act, included Venezuela on the annual list of countries not cooperating on antiterrorism efforts.

**MORE FREEDOM, LESS TERROR?: LIBERALIZATION AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE ARAB WORLD.** RAND Corporation. Dalia Dassa Kaye et al. Web posted September 29, 2008  
[http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND\\_MG772.pdf](http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/2008/RAND_MG772.pdf) [PDF format, 227 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Some policymakers and analysts have held that democracy has nothing to do with terrorism or even that the growth of democracy in the Middle East may exacerbate political violence. The study examines whether such links exist by exploring the effects of liberalization processes on political violence in Egypt, Jordan, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Algeria, and Morocco from 1991 to 2006.

**PARENTS IN PRISON AND THEIR MINOR CHILDREN.** Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. Lauren E. Glaze and Laura M. Maruschak. Web posted August 27, 2008  
<http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pptmc.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages]

The study compares estimates of the number of incarcerated parents and their children under the age of 18, by gender, age, race, and Hispanic origin in state and federal prisons in 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, and 2007. It presents the total number of children who were minors at some time during their parent's incarceration. The report provides family background of inmate parents including household makeup, public assistance received by household, drug and alcohol use, and incarceration of family members. It includes information on the children's daily care, financial support, current caregivers, and frequency and type of contact with incarcerated parents.

**THE PRESIDENT'S IDENTITY THEFT TASK FORCE REPORT.** Federal Trade Commission. Web posted October 21, 2008  
<http://www.ftc.gov/os/2008/10/081021taskforcereport.pdf> [PDF format, 70 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

The report shows the progress the federal government has made in addressing identity theft since the Task Force's Strategic Plan was released last year. Highlights of the report include expansion of the Task Force's data security and identity theft business and consumer education campaigns; exploring means of improving consumer authentication processes to prevent the use of stolen information to commit identity theft; launching new initiatives to help identity theft victims recover; and improving law enforcement tools to investigate and prosecute identity thieves.

**"TO PROTECT AND DEFEND": CHALLENGES TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND HOMELAND SECURITY FACING THE NEXT PRESIDENT.** National Association of Chiefs of Police. Web posted August 28, 2008

<http://www.theiacp.org/documents/protectdefend.pdf> [PDF format, 13 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

Because every 22.2 seconds, an American is a victim of a violent crime, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is calling on the next president of the United States to establish a National Commission on criminal justice and homeland security. The Commission would be charged with conducting a comprehensive review of the criminal justice system, and would be required to provide the nation with a strategic plan to guide public safety and homeland security efforts in the years ahead.

**TRENDS IN UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRATION: UNDOCUMENTED INFLOW NOW TRAILS LEGAL INFLOW.** Pew Hispanic Center. Jeffrey S. Passel and D'Vera Cohn. Web posted October 11, 2008

<http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/94.pdf> [PDF format, 25 pages]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

There were 11.9 million unauthorized immigrants living in the United States in March 2008, according to Pew estimates. It is clear from the estimates that the unauthorized immigrant population grew more slowly in the period from 2005 to 2008 than it did earlier in the decade. It also is clear that from 2005 to 2008, the inflow of immigrants who are undocumented fell below that of immigrants who are legal permanent residents. That reverses a trend that began a decade ago.

**UNDERAGE ALCOHOL USE: WHERE DO YOUNG PEOPLE DRINK?** National Survey on Drug Use and Health. Web posted September 4, 2008

<http://www.oas.samhsa.gov/2k8/location/underage.htm> [HTML format, various paging]

[Note: contains copyrighted material]

A majority (53.4 percent) of current alcohol users aged 12 to 20 drank at someone else's home the last time they used alcohol, and another 30.3 percent drank in their own home. The percentage of underage alcohol users who had their most recent drink in a car or other vehicle peaked at 10.1 percent at age 16 (12.8 percent of females and 7.3 percent of males).